

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire May 24, 2004. In the present Amendment, Claims 1, 4, 6, 13, 15, 18, 20-21 and 27 are amended, Claims 3, 5, 7-12, 17, 19, 22, 24 and 26 are cancelled, and Claims 29-32 are added. Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 13-16, 18, 20-21, 23, 25 and 27-32 are now pending.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS

In paragraph 1 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the specification for a typographical error in which “,” should be “.” when describing the signal generated by a switch. The specification has been amended to correct this error, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

In paragraph 14 of the present Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 5-8, 13, 14, 19-22 and 27-28 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims. Thus, the elements of Claim 5 (and intermediate Claim 3) have been incorporated into Claim 1; Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the features of base Claims 9 and 1; Claim 15 has been rewritten to incorporate the features of Claim 19 (and intermediate Claim 17); and Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the features of Claim 15 (and intermediate Claim 23). Thus, these claims and their respective dependent claims should now be allowed.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claim 29 claims the features of the embodiment described and depicted in Figure 1 of the present application, and New Claims 30-32 claim the features of the embodiment described and depicted in Figure 8.

With regards to Claim 29, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a plate main unit having pivotably coupled “first and second members each having a respective input switch” that

pivot on the same "pivot axis" as "a finger support section," such that "when not in use, the finger support section and first and second members fold flat against the plate main unit."

With regards to Claim 30, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest "a first, second and third member pivotably coupled to the plate main unit on the pivot axis, the first, second and third members each having a respective input switch, wherein the first and second enabling switches define alternate input signals generated by the respective input switches of the first, second and third members." Similarly, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the dependent feature of Claim 32 that the "first, second and third members fold flat against the plate main unit" when not in use.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The present amendment includes a total of six independent claims. Therefore, Applications request that \$258.00 be charged to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563** to cover the fee for the extra three independent claims beyond the allotted three. In addition, please charge any fee associated with any other extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,



James E. Boice
Registration No. 44,545
DILLON & YUDELL, LLP
P.O. Box 201720
Austin, Texas 78720-1720
(512) 343-6116
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS